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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: January 8, 2014

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Iowa Utilities Board opens inquiry, seeks public comment on distributed generation in Iowa

(Des Moines) – The Iowa Utilities Board has opened a notice of inquiry (NOI) proceeding to gather information related to policy and technical issues associated with distributed generation, which is an approach that employs various technologies for power generation closer to the point of consumption.

Information gathered by the inquiry will assist the Board in addressing the potential widespread use of distributed generation, related consumer protections, and interconnection and safety considerations. In its December 2, 2013, and December 16, 2013, Energy Efficiency Plan orders, the Board informed rate-regulated utilities and other relevant parties of its intent to conduct this NOI proceeding.

The Board is asking for comments or information relevant to this inquiry, is accepting responses to its questions related to distributed generation, and could seek additional responses to more specific questions and/or schedule a workshop(s) after all initial comments have been received. For more information, please see the Board's Order Initiating Docket No. NOI-2014-0001.

The inquiry responses will provide information to the Board and other groups involved in energy, environmental, and economic policy for a more thorough understanding of the technical, financial, regulatory, safety, and policy aspects of distributed generation. In addition to lowa utilities, the Board invites broad participation from other state agencies, local government and non-governmental organizations, environmental groups, renewable energy trade associations, industrials, and any others with an interest in these issues to contribute in this process.

Anyone may participate, and also respond to the questions posed in the Board's written order, by submitting comments via its electronic filing system, https://efs.iowa.gov. Questions regarding this inquiry docket may be addressed to Brenda Biddle, Brenda.Biddle@iub.iowa.gov.

The Board is interested in hearing an extensive range of comments. Initial comments are sought by February 25, 2014. The Board has not previously conducted an inquiry related to distributed generation and has not taken any particular positions as it begins to gather information.

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The lowa Utilities Board regulates utilities to ensure that reasonably priced, reliable, environmentally responsible, and safe utility services are available to all lowans.

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